

WE CLAIM:

1. A boat comprising:
 - a hull having a bow, a stern a port side and a starboard side;
 - an engine positioned at the stern of the hull;
 - a hood for covering the engine, the hood being moveable between a closed position where the engine is covered and an open position where the engine can be accessed; and
 - a first seat positioned between the engine and one of the port and starboard sides of the hull, the seat being moveable relative to the engine between a lowered position and a raised position, wherein lateral access to the engine is not blocked when the first seat is in the raised position.
2. The boat of claim 1, further comprising a hinge for allowing the seat to be pivoted from the lowered position to the raised position.
3. The boat of claim 1, wherein the seat is coupled to the hood such that the seat moves from the lowered position to the raised position when the hood is moved from the closed position to the open position.
4. The boat of claim 1, wherein the hood pivots about a first pivot axis when moved between the closed position and the open position, and wherein the seat pivots about the first pivot axis when moved between the lowered position and the raised position.
5. The boat of claim 4, wherein the seat pivots in concert with the hood such that the seat and the hood pivot as a unit.
6. The boat of claim 1, further comprising a second seat positioned between the engine and the other of the port and starboard sides of the hull, the second seat being moveable relative to the engine between a lowered position where the second seat is

adapted to be sat upon and a raised position where the second seat does not block lateral access to the engine.

7. A boat comprising:

- a hull having a bow, a stern a port side and a starboard side;
- an inboard/outboard drive unit including an engine positioned at the stern of the hull;

- a hood for covering the engine, the hood being moveable between a closed position where the engine is covered and an open position where the engine can be accessed;

- a first seat positioned between the hood and the port side of the hull;

- a second seat positioned between the hood and a starboard side of the hull; and

- the first and second seats being carried with the hood as the hood is moved from the closed position to the open position to enhance lateral access to the engine when the hood is in the open position.

8. The boat of claim 7, further comprising at least one hinge for allowing the hood to be moved between the open and closed positions.

9. A boat comprising:

- a hull having a bow, a stern a port side and a starboard side;
- an inboard/outboard drive unit including an engine positioned at the stern of the hull;

- a combined hood and seat unit that is moveable between a closed position where the engine is covered and an open position where the engine can be accessed, the combined hood and seat unit including:

- a frame defining a hood for covering the engine, the hood including a hood top wall, a hood port wall, a hood starboard wall and a hood front wall, the frame also including a first rear wall that extends

from the hood port wall toward the port side of the hull and a second rear wall that extends from the hood starboard wall toward the starboard side of the hull, the first rear wall and the hood port wall cooperating to define a first seat pocket, and the second rear wall and the hood starboard wall cooperating to define a second seat pocket;

a first seat coupled to the frame and positioned at the first seat pocket;

a second seat coupled to the frame and positioned at the second seat pocket; and

a hinge for allowing the combined seat and hood unit to be pivoted between the open and closed positions.

10. The boat of claim 9, wherein the boat includes a rear top deck, wherein the hinge connects the combined seat and hood unit to the top deck, and wherein the hinge extends across a width of the boat.

11. The boat of claim 10, wherein when the first and second rear walls extend from a floor of the boat to the rear top deck when the combined hood and seat unit is in the closed position.

12. The boat of claim 9, wherein the first and second seats each include a back cushion and a seat cushion, the back cushions of the first and second seats being respectively coupled to the first and second rear walls of the frame, and the seat cushions of the first and second seats being respectively coupled to the hood port wall and the hood starboard wall.

13. The boat of claim 12, wherein the seat cushion of the first seat pivots relative to the hood port wall between a first position where the seat cushion is adapted to be sat upon and a second position where the seat cushion is generally parallel relative to the hood port wall, and wherein the seat cushion of the second seat pivots relative to the

hood starboard wall between a first position where the seat cushion is adapted to be sat upon and a second position where the seat cushion is generally parallel relative to the hood starboard wall.

14. A boat comprising:

- a hull having a bow, a stern a port side and a starboard side;

- an engine positioned at the stern of the hull;

- a hood for covering the engine;

- a pocket positioned between the hood and one of the port and starboard sides of the hull; and

- a seat positioned at the pocket, the seat including a seat cushion that is moveable between a first position where the seat cushion extends across the pocket and is adapted to be sat upon, and a second position where the seat cushion is located upright within the pocket and is aligned along a plane that extends generally parallel to a keel line of the boat, wherein a passenger can walk into the pocket when the seat cushion is in the second position.

15. The boat of claim 14, further comprising a hinge for allowing the seat cushion to pivot between the first and second positions.

16. The boat of claim 15, wherein the hinge is positioned adjacent to the hood.

17. A boat comprising:

- a hull having a bow, a stern a port side and a starboard side;

- an engine positioned at the stern of the hull;

- a hood for covering the engine;

- a pocket positioned between the hood and one of the port and starboard sides of the hull, the pocket having a closed back end and an open front end, the pocket also including first and second sides that extend between the front and back ends; and

a seat positioned at the pocket, the seat including a seat cushion and a back cushion, the back cushion being positioned at the closed back end of the pocket, the seat cushion being moveable between a first position where the seat cushion extends across the pocket between the first and second sides of the pocket and is adapted to be sat upon, and a second position where the seat cushion is located upright within the pocket and is aligned along one of the first and second sides of the pocket, wherein a passenger can walk into the pocket when the seat cushion is in the second position.

18. The boat of claim 17, wherein the first side of the pocket is defined by a sidewall of the hood and the second side of the pocket is defined by an interior sidewall of the boat.

19. The boat of claim 17, further comprising a hinge for allowing the seat cushion to pivot between the first and second positions.

20. The boat of claim 18, wherein the seat cushion is positioned adjacent to the first side of the pocket when in the second position